

Filaments much flattened and whitish at base becoming filiform and red-brown in their upper part, the 3 inner narrower and lengthening before the 3 outer, the *anthers* dark brown on back and exserted in turn by 4 mm.

Style yellow, the *stigma* at length exserted by 5 mm.

Ovary bright green, 5 mm. long, 2 mm. diam., the apex truncate.



PLATE XXVI

A. doei Lavranos

Flowers 1/1 from bud to post-pollination stage.

Photo: Botanical Research Institute, Pretoria.

This new species was first found by Mr. Brian Doe, at present Director of Antiquities, Aden, in the magnificent country along the edge of the Audhali Escarpment, at ca. 7,400 ft., during an excursion which we made along the Marwaha track on a stormy afternoon in August, 1962, together with Major M. D. van Lessen and Mr. C. C. C. Meintjes. Plants were not numerous and almost all were solitary. None were in flower but a plant now in cultivation at Bryanston, near Johannesburg, flowered in late Dec. 1964 and early Jan. 1965, when the present description was drawn up.

A. doei is nearest allied to *A. niebuhriana* Lavranos which occurs in large numbers at about 500—1,500 ft. near Tor al Baha in the hot, arid foothills of the Subaihi country of S. Arabia. *A. niebuhriana* differs, however, in forming large, dense groups, and in having more robust, usually simple inflorescences, larger bracts, longer, somewhat curved perianths which are usually pubescent or, more rarely, hairy on the free part of the perianth-segments only. In *A. niebuhriana* the the outer perianth-segments are free for 19—21 mm., the pedicels and terminal portion of the inflorescence being usually pubescent. In *A. doei* the pedicels and the peduncle are glabrous.

A. doei is very closely related to certain plants which occur in considerable numbers at Moledera, south of Erigavo in Northern Somalia and have been

attributed by Dr. G. W. Reynolds to *A. tomentosa* Deflers. However, this form, besides having leaves with short, blunt, rather distant marginal teeth, is distinguished by its pink, densely tomentose-shaggy perianths, the outer segments of which are free for only 9 mm. and which could not be confused with those of *A. doei* with their sparse covering of very long hairs.

I suspect that some of the plants collected in various localities along the Audali Escarpment and which I thought belonged to *A. doei* may, in fact, represent a different species, while certain plants collected in the higher parts of the Lodar plain may, in the end, prove to belong to the species described here.

This interesting species is named in honour of Mr. Brian Doe, in recognition of his active interest in Arabian Botany and of the encouragement which I have received from him over a long period.

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